(c) The Central Government is empowered by the UGC Act, 1956 to declare an institution of higher education, other than a University, as Deemed to be a University, on the advice of the UGC. The UGC has laid down guidelines for consideration of proposals for declaring an institution as deemed to be a university. The proposals received for conferment of status under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 are examined as per the provisions of these guidelines. The UGC evaluates the proposal by deputing an Expert Committee to the applicant institution that inspects and makes an on the spot assessment of the applicant institution and the facilities available there, including those of the infrastructure and faculty, and submits a report to the Commission. The UGC considers the report in its meeting before making its recommendations to the Central Government.

Foreign institutions in the education sector

†2800. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the foreign institutions are working in the education sector, in collaboration with Indian colleges and universities;

(b) if so, the names of these institutions and whether they have been legalized by the Ministry; and

(c) if not, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OIF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) In the absence of any regulatory mechanism, no authentic information about the foreign institutions operating in the country is available. At present, only the All India Council for Technical Education has framed regulations for entry and operation of foreign universities/institutions imparting technical education in India. A legislative proposal for entry and operation of foreign educational institutions in the country is presently under consideration of the Government.

Survey for monitoring of SSA

†2801. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got any survey conducted by Social and Research Institute and Indian Research Movement Bureau, for monitoring of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan being run for primary education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the number of children aged between six to thirteen years, who are not going to school, is the highest in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the percentage thereof and the measures being taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) An independent

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

survey was commissioned by the Government of India and conducted by Social and Research Institute, a unit of International Marketing Research Bureau (SRI-IMRB) in July-August, 2005 with the aim of assessing the number of out-of-school children across the country.

As per the findings of the survey, the number of out of school children in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh was 31.77 lakhs and 29.95 lakhs respectively. This number has now reduced to 21.20 lakhs in Bihar and 7.86 lakhs in Uttar Pradesh as per State Reports as of March, 2007.

Context specific interventions for children who are "hard to reach" such as bridge courses, learning centres with flexible timings, seasonal hostels, home based education, mobile schools, have been taken up under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Programme. The Government of India has undertaken 19 orientation and capacity building workshops with States/UTs with illustrative case studies of good practices, to encourage State/districts to do such context specific interventions.

Certificates/degrees of IIPM

2802. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the value of certificates/degrees issued by Indian Institute of Planning and Management (IIPM) for applying for a post in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) or Government's departments;

(b) whether conducting of MBA/BBA courses without the approval of AICTE and UGC is illegal; and

(c) if so, the legal recourse Government propose to take against IIPM, instead of issuing advisory to students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Any qualification awarded by the said institution has no value under the relevant laws in force.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The AICTE has issued show cause notice to the Indian Institute of Planning and Management (IIPM) and placed the name of the above institution in the list of unapproved technical institutions running technical courses without approval of AICTE. The IIPM has also filed a writ petition before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court challenging the show cause notice issued by the AICTE. The matter is *sub-judice*.

Seats in IIMs and IITs

†2803. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of seats available in IIMs and IITs at present;

(b) whether the number of seats has been increased to accommodate the backward castes;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.